



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

June 14, 1997

The Honorable Kirk Brown
Secretary
Illinois Department of Transportation
2300 South Kirksen Parkway
Springfield, Illinois 62764

Dear Mr. Brown:

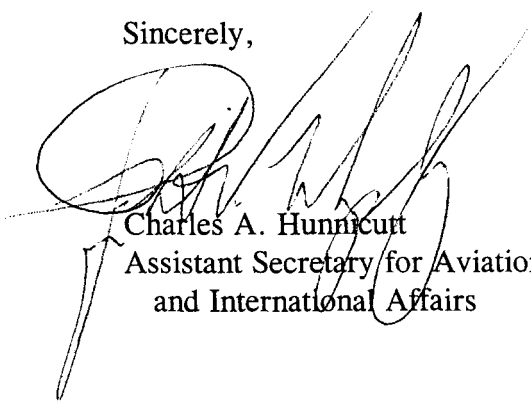
Thank you for your letter expressing support for the application of AirTran Airways, Inc. for an exemption from Subparts K and S of 14 CFR Part 93 (High Density Rule) to enable it to operate nonstop air service between New York LaGuardia and a number of other cities, including Bloomington/Normal and Moline/Quad Cities, Illinois.

As this application is currently pending before the Department and has been contested, I am sure you understand that the Department's rules preclude me from commenting on the merits. I assure you, however, that we will consider all relevant factors in reaching our decision.

I am placing a copy of your letter and my response in Docket OST-97-2557 and in the file for contacts outside the record of the case.

I appreciate your interest in this matter.

Sincerely,


Charles A. Hunnicutt
Assistant Secretary for Aviation
and International Affairs

OST-97-2557-24

CORRESPONDENCE

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

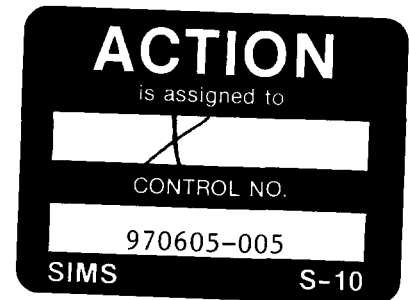
DEPT. OF TRANSPORTATION
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Illinois Department of Transportation

Office of the Secretary
2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764
Telephone 217/782-5597



May 30, 1997

Mr. Rodney Slater, Secretary
U.S. Department of Transportation
400 Seventh Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Slater:

I am writing in support of an application filed by AirTran Airways for slots at New York's LaGuardia Airport to enable new service from the Central Illinois Airport in Bloomington/Normal, Illinois and from the Quad-City Airport in Moline, Illinois. AirTran, a new air carrier, has determined that there is a substantial demand for direct air service from both of these areas to New York City. A recently completed study by the Illinois Department of Transportation supports these findings.

Slot access to LaGuardia from both of these Illinois cities is important because it will enable direct service from two areas that are currently underserved. The direct access will provide another option to people who currently suffer the inconvenience and added cost of changing aircraft and airlines since there is no direct service available in these two areas. This access will also provide improved transportation service to areas of the state that are currently experiencing economic growth.

I appreciate your continued interest in Illinois' transportation system and urge you to approve the AirTran Airways application.

Sincerely,



Kirk Brown
Secretary